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Old Crows group honors sensors people

by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Seven from the Air Force Research Laboratory were among those recognized by the Association of Old Crows during a ceremony held Sept. 22 at the Dayton Convention Center. The group was honored for their contributions, advances and service in the electronic warfare and information operations arena.

Representing AFRL were David Hime for the Executive Management Award, P. Aaron Linn for the Research and Development Award, Louis Chan for the Modeling and Simulation Award, Mark Speed for the Communications Award; Lt. Col. David Hagstrom for the Directed Energy Warfare Award, and retired Lt. Col. Donald Kessler and Master Sgt. David Coates for the Command and Control Award.

The awards were presented at the 40th Annual AOC International Symposium. The Association of Old Crows was founded in 1964 as a nonprofit professional association to enhance awareness of electronic warfare defense electronics. Currently, it has more than 14,000 members with more than 80 chapters located throughout the world.

Hime, Sensors Directorate, showed exemplary leadership, management of manpower and materiel, and unswerving support of electronic warfare science and technology research and development programs for the U. S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Homeland Security initiatives.

Linn, Sensors Directorate, was recognized for his dedicated efforts and technological contributions in the design, development, and test and evaluation of state-of-the-art, passive, radar precision location and combat identification technologies.

Chan, Sensors Directorate, was acknowledged for leadership, and innovative development and application of Multi-Spectral Synthetic Battlespace Simulation capable of supporting distributed system-of-systems evaluations and demonstrations, and for improving the technologies and processes necessary to realize the Air Force's Vision of Simulation Based Acquisition.

Speed, a Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corp. engineer working in the Sensors Directorate, developed an innovative software package capable of simulating a full-up Link-16 system and interfaces necessary to integrate into a Distributed Interactive Simulation network for Integrated Demonstrations and Applications Laboratory, and the Simulation and Analysis Facility.

Lt. Col. Hagstrom from Headquarters Plans and Programs was recognized for outstanding leadership and management of directed energy technology and technology transition initiatives for the AFRL. He was instrumental in the development of the CSAF's Directed Energy Roadmap, integrating Directed Energy technology initiatives into the MILSATCOM program's future plans, and initiated laser-based technology demonstrations to support pilot/aircrew safety.

Lt. Col. Kessler and Master Sgt. Coates, Sensors Directorate distinguished themselves by investigating, inventing, and producing the "Kessler-Coates" (KeCo) antenna switch to enhance Special Operations Command Forces' PRC-117 tactical radios used for calling in and controlling air strikes.

"We had to rapidly respond to an urgent communications problem," said Master Sgt. Coates. In less than three months, they designed, tested, produced and fielded nearly 100 KeCo switches to be put on Special Operations radio. @